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WORKSHOP ON INCESSANT KIDNAPPINGS AND KILLINGS IN NIGERIA: THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT VIS-À-VIS THE NIGERIAN CONSTITUTION



Kwara State
University

The Department of Jurisprudence and
Public Law, Faculty of Law, KWASU

PROCEEDINGS OF WORKSHOP ON INCESSANT KIDNAPPINGS AND KILLINGS IN NIGERIA: THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT VIS-À-VIS THE NIGERIAN CONSTITUTION

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MISSION STATEMENT

Globally, debates on human rights protection and enforcement occupy utmost discourse. The reason being that, the very essence of protecting and guaranteeing human rights is to accord the natural and needed dignity to man. Of the inexhaustible list of fundamental human rights recognised universally, the right to life appears to be fulcrum and the most important of all. In fact, without right to life, all other fundamental rights become meaningless.

The growing and recurrent global debates are thus shifting attention towards the fact that protection of right to life is inadequate without enjoyment of basic amenities of life that come forth through the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCRs). Thus, despite the recognition of right to life the world over, the issue of incessant kidnappings and killings across the country has deprived one the enjoyment of the right to life and its amenities.

It is in the spirit of contributing to effective policy formulation and proffering solutions on the issue of insecurity that has plagued Nigeria as a country that the Department of Jurisprudence and Public Law, KWASU, organised a one-day workshop to create a platform to facilitate and harness robust solutions towards curbing insecurity in the country. Also, to enlighten the relevant security and government agencies saddled with the responsibility of protection of lives and properties on possible solution against recurrent kidnappings and killings across the country and general public at large.

In attendance were heads of security agencies (Deputy Commissioner of Police, Kwara State Police Command, Controller of Corrections, Kwara State Command, Commandant NSCDC, Chief Security Officer, KWASU etc), members of the Judiciary (Hon Judge of the High Court and Chief Magistrate, Kwara State Judiciary), members of academia, legal practitioners (including the Chairman NBA, Ilorin Branch), University Community (Staff and students of KWASU and neighboring Institutions), Office of the Public Prosecution and the general public.

The workshop addresses practical issues on insecurity and insurgency in Nigeria as a whole with particular focus on the objective of the workshop which is to come up with plausible and implementable recommendations and way out. Several recommendations proposed include; the use of Artificial Intelligence AI, government overhaul of the security agencies and independence of the judiciary. This proceedings is a must read!

We must acknowledge those who supported the realisation of the workshop. These are individuals who take every opportunity to invest in platforms that advance the society. The Department is particularly grateful to Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, Mallam K.K Eleja and Mr S.M.H Kosemani for their financial support towards the success of the workshop. We must also appreciate Prof. Abiodun Amuda-Kannike, SAN, for his exceptional leadership and role as the Chairman, Organising Committee; the Dean of Law, Prof. Y.D.U Hambali; the University Librarian represented by Dr. Florence Ajani; our speakers; staff and students of the Faculty. Finally, a special appreciation goes to the game-changers, all members of the Department, you are the best!

Dr. Khafayat Yetunde Olatinwo
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December 2025

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COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGIES OF OTHER JURISDICTIONS: LESSONS FOR ENHANCING SECURITY MANAGEMENT IN NIGERIA

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Abstract:

Undermining the extent to which insecurity has become endemic in Nigeria currently would be tantamount to denial syndrome or refusal to accept reality. It has become a plague in which individuals' solace for the restoration of peace and security is no longer rested in the government. In other words, citizens do not have confidence in the security system in place in Nigeria for protection of lives and properties. Whilst this is the reality, the bane of ensuring security in Nigeria hugely rests on the government. The Constitution places the duty of ensuring security on the government, and to ensure this, there are several federal security outfits and agencies (Nigeria Police, Army, Air force, NSCDC, SSS, etc.), the State Policing system (like the Amotekun in the south-west zone), and other policies put

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in place. The questions are, why are these efforts not yielding positive outcomes? Why do the citizens still sleep with an eye open? Why is the level of insecurity still higher than in some other countries when Nigeria is known as the giant of Africa? It is the intention of this paper to analyse and compare the security strategies of some countries with a rather low level of insecurity (having in mind the peculiarity of Nigeria as an African country) with that of Nigeria. The analysis is to reveal whether Nigeria, as a country, can learn from such strategies for the protection of lives and properties in the country. Appropriate recommendations on the better approach by the Nigerian government to curb the incessant killings and kidnappings shall be made.

Keywords: *Nigeria, National Security, Security Strategies, Security Management, and Comparative Analysis.*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In the contemporary international system, national security is no longer narrowly construed as the protection of territorial boundaries through military means alone. It has evolved into a multifaceted concept encompassing a broad spectrum of concerns, including political stability, economic resilience, public health, environmental safety, technological integrity, and human security. The post-Cold War global security architecture, especially in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the proliferation of non-state actors, has drastically reshaped the traditional Westphalian notion of sovereignty and the role of the state in ensuring national security¹.

Globalization, while fostering economic integration and intercultural exchange, has simultaneously exposed nations to transnational threats ranging from cyberattacks and terrorism to climate change and pandemics². In this context, the concept of "security" must be dynamic, integrative, and responsive to the changing nature of threats. In essence,

¹B uzan, B. (1991). *People, States, and Fear: An Agenda for International Security Studies in the Post-Cold War Era*. London: Harvester Wheatsheaf.

²Nye, J. S. (2004). *Soft Power: The Means to Success in World Politics*. New York: Public Affairs.

national security now requires a synergy of military, economic, environmental, technological, and sociopolitical strategies a fact that has been acknowledged in most advanced and emerging economies.

Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation and largest economy, has become emblematic of the complex challenges that face developing countries in the realm of national security. The Nigerian security landscape is marked by protracted insurgency in the North-East, armed banditry and kidnapping in the North-West, communal and herder-farmer conflicts in the Middle Belt, separatist agitations in the South-East, militancy in the South-South, and urban criminality across the major cities³. These multifaceted threats are further compounded by weak institutions, porous borders, ethnic and religious tensions, economic inequality, and a fragmented security architecture.

Given the gravity and multiplicity of threats, there is an urgent need to reexamine and possibly reengineer Nigeria's national security strategy. The central thrust of this paper is therefore to explore how selected jurisdictions; the United States, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, and South Africa have conceptualized, structured, and operationalized their national security frameworks and what Nigeria can learn from them.

2.0. METHODOGY

This paper makes use of a doctrinal and comparative research methodology, suitable for examining national security strategies across selected jurisdictions and identifying adaptable best practices for Nigeria.

The doctrinal legal research involves a detailed examination of primary sources and secondary sources. The primary sources information makes use of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), statutes (e.g., Police Act 2020, Terrorism (Prevention) Act 2011), and judicial decisions, while the secondary sources are scholarly

³Adebanwi, W., &Obadare, E. (2010). *Democracy and Prebendalism in Nigeria*. Journal of Contemporary African Studies, 28(3), 259–277.

articles, books, policy papers, reports from security agencies, and international legal instruments. All the sources are integrated to do justice to the study.

Secondly, the comparative research methodology employed to study and contrast national security strategies from selected jurisdictions, such as the United Kingdom, United States, Saudi Arabia, and South Africa – the selection based on similar federal structure or post-colonial context (e.g., Nigeria, South Africa), advanced national security infrastructure (e.g., the USA, UK, and Saudi Arabia), and African regional relevance (e.g., South Africa).

3.0 OBJECTIVES AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The primary objective of this paper is to conduct a comparative analysis of national security strategies in selected countries to derive actionable lessons for Nigeria. Specific goals include:

- To analyze the structural and policy components of national security in the U.S., U.K., Saudi Arabia, and South Africa
- To identify the strengths and weaknesses of Nigeria's current security framework
- To offer evidence-based recommendations for reforming Nigeria's national security strategy

The significance of this study lies in its potential contribution to policy discourse, academic literature, and practical governance. In an era of increasing insecurity, Nigeria requires a paradigm shift in how it conceptualizes and manages security. This article offers a strategic lens through which such a transformation can be envisioned.

4.0 DEFINITIONAL CONSTRUCTS: WHAT IS NATIONAL SECURITY?

The term “national security” has been defined variously by scholars and practitioners, yet there is consensus that it fundamentally refers to the safeguarding of a state's survival, sovereignty, and strategic interests from both internal and external threats⁴. According to

⁴Rothschild, E. (1995). “What is Security?” *Daedalus*, 124(3), 53–98.

Harold Brown, a former U.S. Secretary of Defense, “national security means the ability of a nation to protect its internal values from external threats”⁵. Barry Buzan, a key figure in the Copenhagen School of Security Studies, expands the concept by introducing sectors of security; military, political, economic, societal, and environmental thus providing a broader analytical lens⁶.

For Nigeria, this definition must be contextualized to reflect the nation’s specific vulnerabilities and historical trajectory. Since gaining independence in 1960, Nigeria has witnessed a civil war, numerous military coups, periods of ethnic and religious violence, and more recently, non-state actor-led insurgency. Thus, national security in Nigeria must include both the protection of the state and the safety and wellbeing of its citizens.

5.0 HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF SECURITY GOVERNANCE IN NIGERIA

The historical evolution of national security in Nigeria is instructive in understanding its present security dilemmas. During the colonial era, the British government focused on quelling resistance to imperial rule through policing mechanisms rather than national defense. The military was primarily a tool of internal suppression rather than external defense. Upon independence, Nigeria inherited a security structure designed more for control than protection⁷.

The post-independence era saw the rapid expansion of the military, culminating in its dominance over the political landscape following a series of coups from 1966 to 1999. This militarization of governance led to a centralization of security institutions and the politicization of security intelligence. National security during military rule was often used as a justification for repression, censorship, and human rights abuses⁸.

⁵Brown, H. (1983). *Thinking About National Security: Defense and Foreign Policy in a Dangerous World*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

⁶Buzan, B. (1991). *People, States, and Fear*.

⁷Osaghae, E. E. (1998). *Crippled Giant: Nigeria Since Independence*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

⁸Ayoade, J. A. A. (2008). *The Role of the Military in Nigerian Politics*. Ibadan: Spectrum Books.

The return to democratic governance in 1999 offered a chance to reform the security sector. However, the early 2000s witnessed the emergence of violent non-state actors, notably the Niger Delta militants, and by 2009, the rise of Boko Haram signaled a turning point in Nigeria's internal security crisis. Despite democratic reforms, the security apparatus remained largely reactive, underfunded, and fragmented, with little emphasis on inter-agency collaboration, strategic planning, or preventive measures.

6.0 CURRENT STATE OF NATIONAL SECURITY IN NIGERIA

Nigeria today is grappling with one of the most complex security crises in its history. The threat environment is not only diverse but also geographically dispersed and asymmetrical in nature. Key issues include:

- **Insurgency and Terrorism:** Boko Haram, and its offshoot Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), continue to carry out deadly attacks, especially in the North-East. Their objectives include the establishment of an Islamic caliphate, disruption of governance, and control over territory⁹.
- **Banditry and Kidnapping:** In the North-West and North-Central regions, loosely organized armed groups engage in cattle rustling, mass abduction, and extortion. These groups are often better armed than local law enforcement agencies and have created zones of ungoverned space¹⁰.
- **Communal Conflicts and Ethno-Religious Violence:** Herder-farmer clashes have escalated due to climate change, desertification, and demographic pressures. In the South-East, the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) has led renewed secessionist movements¹¹.

⁹Onuoha, F. C. (2014). "Why Do Youth Join Boko Haram?" *Special Report*. United States Institute of Peace.

¹⁰International Crisis Group. (2020). *Violence in Nigeria's North West: Rolling Back the Mayhem*. Africa Report No. 288.

¹¹Okonta, I., & Douglas, O. (2003). *Where Vultures Feast: Shell, Human Rights, and Oil in the Niger Delta*. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books.

- **Cybercrime and Economic Sabotage:** With increasing internet penetration, cyber fraud (locally termed "Yahoo Yahoo") has burgeoned. Similarly, oil theft in the Niger Delta undermines economic security and finances criminal enterprises¹².
- **Police Brutality and Civil Unrest:** The #EndSARS protests of 2020 exposed the deep-seated distrust between the public and security forces, particularly the police, who are perceived as corrupt, abusive, and unprofessional¹³.

These challenges expose fundamental flaws in Nigeria's national security architecture, including poor funding, corruption, weak intelligence, poor inter-agency coordination, lack of strategic foresight, and inadequate training and welfare for security personnel.

7.0 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS FOR ANALYZING NATIONAL SECURITY

Several theoretical paradigms can be employed in analyzing national security. The realist paradigm, which focuses on state-centric, power-based approaches, has traditionally dominated the discourse. However, the inadequacies of this model in addressing contemporary, non-conventional threats have led scholars to adopt more inclusive frameworks.

The human security paradigm, as articulated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), shifts the focus from the state to the individual and identifies seven key dimensions of security: economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, and political security¹⁴. This model is particularly relevant for Nigeria, where poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation are key drivers of conflict.

Another important framework is the securitization theory from the Copenhagen School, which posits that issues become security concerns when they are framed as existential

¹²UNODC. (2021). *Organized Crime and Trafficking in Nigeria: Patterns and Trends*. Vienna: UNODC Press.

¹³Amnesty International. (2020). *Nigeria: Time to End Impunity for Police Brutality*. London: Amnesty International Publications.

¹⁴UNDP. (1994). *Human Development Report*. New York: Oxford University Press.

threats to a referent object, justifying extraordinary measures. This theory is useful in understanding how the Nigerian state prioritizes certain threats over others and the implications of such prioritization on civil liberties and democratic governance¹⁵.

8.0 NATIONAL SECURITY AND ITS COMPONENTS IN NIGERIA

National security occupies the highest level of priority in the hierarchy of interests, is the concern of the government to see that the country is stable and safe for its citizens. It is one of the core values that states cherish as nonnegotiable, and that do not admit compromises. In this sense politicians and policy makers tend to define and conceptualise national security in a highly militarized terms by emphasizing the building of nation's military capabilities.¹⁶ National security seems a wholesome wide umbrella under which lie various forms of security like human security, economic security, financial security, institutional security, educational security, food (agricultural) security, health security, environmental security, personal security, community security, political security and the security of all aspects of human living and endeavour. These and many more are all points of interest that affects the people, thus they are a consideration by the people especially in times and terms of governance.¹⁷

In Nigeria, National Security is taken as a germane issue and as a result of that the Government has provided different mechanisms to enhance its stability. It is against this backdrop that the National security strategy was formulated in 2014. The Strategy of Nigeria outlines the major security concerns of the nation for which policies and strategies have been articulated and how the government plans to deal with them¹⁸. The Strategy reflects how the Nigerian Government seeks to protect the Nigerian people and territory¹⁹

¹⁵Wæver, O. (1995). "Securitization and Desecuritization." In R. D. Lipschutz (Ed.), *On Security*. New York: Columbia University Press.

¹⁶ Isiaka Alani Badmus NIGERIA'S NATIONAL (IN)SECURITY: THE THREAT ANALYSIS *Peace Research* 37:1 (2005), P. 87

¹⁷ A. O. D. Okoro GOVERNMENT BY THE PEOPLE AND NATIONAL SECURITY IN NIGERIA: A STRATEGIC PANACEA FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE *NILDS Journal of Democratic Studies* Vol. 3, No. 1, P. 37

¹⁸ See The National Security Strategy of Nigeria,

¹⁹ Chapter 4 of the National Security Strategy of Nigeria.

as well as outlines the strategies to promote Nigeria's prosperity and sustainable development²⁰.

In a nutshell, Nigeria's security architecture is overly centralised, with multiple agencies operating under the control of the Federal Government. These include the Nigeria Police Force, Department of State Services, Nigerian Army, and others. Although the Police Act 2020 introduced reforms aimed at improving service delivery and accountability,²¹ challenges such as inadequate funding, poor training, lack of modern equipment, and distrust between the police and citizens persist.²² State-based security networks like Amotekun, though operational, lack federal legislative backing and face institutional resistance. Additionally, the overlap in mandates among various agencies leads to poor coordination.²³

It is pertinent to note that in Nigeria, national security is made up of many components, these components can be classified into two, namely: Traditional components and non-traditional components.

a. Traditional Components

Military Defense, Territorial Integrity and Sovereignty: This can be described as the ability to defend a country against external threats and protect its borders (land, sea, and airspace boundaries). It encompasses organized protection and security of a nation's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and interests against external aggression or threats. It encompasses a range of strategic, operational, and tactical activities carried out primarily by the armed forces, which typically include the army, navy, air force, and sometimes specialized units like cyber defense or space command. The power and authority of Nigeria to govern itself independently is also a traditional component of the national security.

b. Non-Traditional Components of Nigeria's National Security.

²⁰ Chapter 5 of the National Security Strategy of Nigeria.

²¹ Nigeria Police Act 2020.

²² Abiodun J. O, 'Internal Security in Nigeria: Issues and Challenges' (2022) 5(1) Journal of Security Studies and Global Politics 45-58.

²³ Nnam M. U. and others, 'Insecurity and National Development in Nigeria: The Role of the State' (2020) 13(1) African Journal of Criminology and Justice Studies 1-20.

- **Economic Security:** This entails the strategies that Nigerian Government put in place to ensuring economic stability, diversification, and growth to prevent economic crises and protect national interests. Government across all levels have policies and programmes to enhance economic stability. Some of these programmes relates to entrepreneurship training, skill development, and start-up capital access designed to lower youth unemployment and boosts economic activities.²⁴
- **Social Security:** Government provide the mechanisms to enhance the social security of its citizens. This entails the protection of citizens' well-being, including their safety, health, and access to basic services.
- **Environmental Security:** Protecting the environment from pollution, degradation, and climate change to ensure long-term sustainability. This is to enhance the conservation of biological sustainability and facilitate the protection of the Nigerian environment for the citizens.
- **Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms:** one of the hallmarks of national security is the guaranteeing of the rights of all citizens, including freedom of speech, assembly, and religion. Citizens rights should be adequately protected in such a way that they should be able to ventilate their grievances. Their voices must not be subdued and they should be able to make recourse to court whenever their rights are being violated.
- **Cybersecurity:** In recent times, the advancement of Information and telecommunication technology has necessitated the transition of many of our nation's critical infrastructure and data from analogue to digital platform. This also brings with it the attendant problem of such infrastructure being susceptible to

²⁴ Law Mefor “Tackling economic security challenges in south east through pise-p project” The Cable 1 December, 2023 <https://www.thecable.ng/tackling-economic-security-challenges-in-south-east-through-pise-p-project/>.

attacks. Therefore, the protection of critical infrastructure and data from cyberattacks are also germane to national security in Nigeria.

Food Security: Ensuring a stable food supply to prevent famine and malnutrition. This is to ensure that the citizens have access to nutritious varieties of food in order to enable them function effectively

Energy Security: Ensuring a stable and reliable energy supply, by enhancing the provision of renewable energy sources for the purpose of running critical governmental, economic and social activities etc.

8.0 SECURITY CHALLENGES IN NIGERIA

Nigeria is facing numerous security challenges that impact all regions of the country. Some of the most significant threats include:

a. Terrorism/Violent Extremism

Boko Haram insurgency emanated from the North-Eastern part of the country in the year 2002.²⁵ Boko Haram simply means “Western education is a sin or forbidden”.²⁶ The issue started as an insignificant agitation of sect with a strange commitment to non-conformist standards of social organization in Muslim-dominated State in the North East. This group started with a leader called Mohammed Yusuf with a view of opposing western education with his followers. However, the killing of the leader Mohammed Yusuf escalated Boko Haram insurgency in the North-East, Nigeria. The threat of terrorism orchestrated by Boko Haram continues to carry out relentless attacks on both soft and high-profile targets in the North East with an ultimate aim of disrupting the government of the day.

These militant groups continue to be Nigeria's notorious security threats, particularly in the North-East. They have been responsible for displacing millions and killing thousands of

²⁵F Onuoha. “Porous borders and Boko Haram’s arms smuggling operations in Nigeria”, (2013). Al-Jazeera Centre for Studies. Retrieved from www.studies.aljazeera.net.

²⁶A Abubakar. Reports: “Boko Haram village raids kill hundreds in Nigeria”, (2014, June). CNN-World. Retrieved from <https://edition.cnn.com/2014/06/05/world/africa/boko-haram-village-raids/> See also, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre Nigeria: Fragmented Response to Internal Displacement amid Boko Haram attacks and Flood Season, Oslo: Norwegian Refugee Council, 2013.

people. Recent attacks include a devastating assault on a military base in Damboa, Borno State, and kidnappings in Zamfara State.²⁷

b. Armed Banditry

The criminal activities of armed bandits and militia groups is arguably second to terrorism. Their major activities include kidnapping and cattle rustling which is on the increase due to the high economic pay off in terms of ransom money. There is a correlation between armed banditry, militia groups, kidnapping and cattle rustling, in what appears to be a convergence of various illegal networks. It is pertinent to note that underlying factors such as poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and other socio-economic factors particularly in the North West Zone have continued to give way for youths to be lured into illicit activities including banditry. Some state governments have engaged the armed bandits in a reconciliatory peace meeting with varying levels of success. It is on record that some major bandit leaders have embraced the reconciliatory efforts which have led unconditional release of scores of kidnap victims. This notwithstanding, attacks still occur, an indication of the diffused nature of the problem, due to the presence of multiple bandit groups operating in the North West Region and the need to evolve an enduring political-military-economic strategy.²⁸

c. Farmers-Pastoralists Clashes

Clashes between farmers and herders over land have spurred the formation of ethnic militias, vigilante raids, and extrajudicial killings, particularly in the Middle Belt and North West states.²⁹ Climate shifts, exclusionary land policies, and population growth have driven these dynamics. Farmers and herdsman conflicts remain the most predominant ‘resource-use’ conflict and a growing concern to national security.

²⁷ *ibid.*

²⁸ Dauda, S. M. (2019). Impact of government intervention on various crises in Nigeria. *Societal issues*, 8(1)102-109.

²⁹ S Kanu, “Kidnapped Nigerian Methodist Church Leader Freed”. BBC News 2022-05-30. Retrieved 14-8-2023.

see also Arise Exclusive: The Kidnappers Threatened to Us as we Negotiated Ransom – Samuel KanuUche, retrieved 14-08-2023.

Analysis of the situation has revealed the spread of the conflict in the North West, North Central and Southern regions, especially in Kaduna, Benue, Taraba, Adamawa, Cross-River, Niger, Kwara, Enugu, Delta and Edo States. It is worthy to note that there has been a significant reduction in reported cases of conflict between herdsmen and sedentary farmers in recent times. This notwithstanding, the conflict has demonstrated a high potential to exacerbate food crisis, particularly in rural communities where most of the conflicts are localized, with reverberating repercussions nationwide.³⁰

d. Increasing Spate of Secessionist Agitations

Groups like the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) are advocating for greater autonomy or secession, leading to violent clashes with Nigerian security forces in the South East. These calls for agitation are intrinsically linked to the persistent agitation for secession by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and Pro-Oduduwa Republic group of Nigeria. The activities of these groups continue to raise security concerns in recent times. The IPOB for instance have taken arms against the State and continue to attack security forces, government institutions, democratic infrastructure as well as law abiding citizens.³¹

e. Drugs, Explosives and Chemicals Abuse

The abuse of drugs and other psychosocial substances are major motivators for most domestic and violent crimes including extremism. Results obtained from samples from the cadaver of some detonated suicide bombers in the NE indicated trace of such substances in the corpse, indicating that most of them were under the influence of the substances while carrying out the violent extremist act. In the same vein long time irresponsible use of dual

³⁰S. Oniye, A.H Hanafi “Effect of climate change on pastoralists transnational Economic Activities and the need for sustainable mechanism in West Africa” Al-Hikmah University Law Journal, vol 3, (2020) page 161-175

³¹S. Oniye “ IPOB Agitation for self Determination under International Law and Domestic Criminal Responsibility in Nigeria” vol 1, (2021) pages 120-134

use chemicals, fertilizers and explosives items have led to their proliferation and availability for perpetrating crimes and violent extremism.³²

f. Maritime Crimes

Crude oil theft, oil pipeline vandalism, operations of Illegal oil refineries, illegal fishing, piracy and kidnapping remain the major threats to maritime security in the country. However, the menace of pipeline vandalism and operations of illegal oil refineries has witnessed a downward trend and is responsible for the Nigeria's stable crude oil and gas exports.³³

9.0 COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY IN SELECTED COUNTRIES

United Kingdom

The national security approach in the United Kingdom (UK) is cast with a dynamic and integrated strategic framework, which ensures a prompt response to a complex array of domestic and global threats. In the UK, the National Security Strategy (NSS) and its complement, the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) serve as the core instruments through which the UK encapsulates its security priorities, resource allocation, and institutional response mechanisms, all in a bid to tackle security threats. In this vein, these strategies are more often than not reviewed and updated to reflect evolving threat landscapes, especially in the context of terrorism, cyber threats, geopolitical instability, pandemics, and climate change.³⁴

Moreover, the UK's national security governance and institutional framework is the National Security Council (NSC), established in 2010 and charged with cohesive and coordinated decision-making across government departments. The NSC is all

³²Ibid

³³PW Tappan. "Criminology and Police Science", Journal of Criminal Law, (1947), vol. II, pt. 3, pp. 1007 - 1030

³⁴ UK Government, National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015: A Secure and Prosperous United Kingdom (London: HM Government, 2015)
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/478933/52309_Cm_9161_NSS_SD_Review_web_only.pdf accessed 22 April 2025.

encompassing of the efforts of the Ministry of Defence (MoD), the Home Office, the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), and the intelligence community, including MI5, MI6, and GCHQ (under the strategic leadership of the Prime Minister).³⁵ It is pertinent to underscore that this NSC, as an institutional framework, represents a significant shift towards centralised security governance, offering a platform for rapid response and strategic coherence in the UK.

A most iteration of the strategy in the recent time is 'titled Global Britain in a Competitive Age: The Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy (2021)'.³⁶ This highlights the UK's commitment to remain a global power in an era marked by great-power competition and technological transformation. The strategy underscores four key priorities, including sustaining strategic advantage through science and technology, shaping the international order, strengthening domestic and world security, and building resilience to crises.³⁷ Adverse to the earlier versions of the NSS, the 2021 version (Integrated Review) moves beyond traditional military threats to emphasize economic security, cyber resilience, and climate change as core components of national security.³⁸

A notable insight of innovation in the UK's strategy generally is its emphasis on resilience and adaptability. The establishment of the Civil Contingencies Secretariat and the institutionalisation of the National Risk Register under the UK's strategy underscore a comprehensive approach to risk management, anticipating both acute shocks and chronic stresses.³⁹ In this vein, the UK has integrated its development and diplomatic strategies with its security visions, recognizing that instability abroad often begets insecurity at home.

³⁵ Hennessy, P., *The Secret State: Preparing for the Worst 1945–2010* (London: Penguin Books, 2010).

³⁶ Cabinet Office, *Global Britain in a Competitive Age: The Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy* (London: HM Government, 2021)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/global-britain-in-a-competitive-age-the-integrated-review-of-security-defence-development-and-foreign-policy> accessed 22 April 2025.

³⁷ *ibid.*

³⁸ Chalmers, M., 'The Integrated Review: Defence in a Competitive Age' (2021) RUSI Commentary
<https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/integrated-review-defence-competitive-age> accessed 22 April 2025.

³⁹ Civil Contingencies Secretariat, *National Risk Register 2020* (London: Cabinet Office, 2020)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-risk-register-2020> accessed 22 April 2025.

In addition, the Fusion Doctrine initiative of the UK's strategy introduced in the 2018 National Security Capability Review further cements the UK's integrated approach. This is done by encouraging collaboration across the government of the UK and leveraging the capabilities of civil society, the private sector, and academia in the pursuit of national security goals.⁴⁰ It is significantly pertinent to emphasize that this doctrine reflects a shift from siloed institutional responses to a more holistic and multi-sectoral engagement.

In all, this paper presumes that the UK's National Security Strategy is characterized by a proactive, adaptive, and integrative model of governance that aligns domestic resilience with global engagement. Thus, for countries like Nigeria facing multidimensional security challenges, the UK's model provides deep valuable insights into the benefits of institutional coherence, foresight planning, and strategic adaptability which can be emulated.

United States

Just like the UK, the national security strategy of the United States is a comprehensive and institutionalized framework blocked out to safeguard the US in terms of its sovereignty, territorial integrity, and global interests. In no doubt, it is constitutionally anchored in the powers of the President as Commander-in-Chief, to take charge of the National Security Strategy (NSS) –the principal document that designs and outlines the executive branch's security priorities, guiding the formulation of policies by defence, diplomatic, and intelligence agencies of the US.⁴¹ Thus, the NSS is published periodically by the Executive Office of the President, more often than not in sequel to significant geopolitical developments or changes in administration.⁴²

The National Security Strategy of 2022, during the Biden Administration, marks a notable evolution in the US recognized as strategic thinking. It underscores the defence wrapped up for a democratic value, the strengthening of alliances, the confrontation of strategic

⁴⁰ Cabinet Office, National Security Capability Review 2018 (London: HM Government, 2018) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-security-capability-review-nscr> accessed 22 April 2025.

⁴¹ White House, National Security Strategy of the United States of America (Washington DC: White House, 2022) <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Biden-Harris-Administrations-National-Security-Strategy-10.2022.pdf> accessed 22 April 2025.

⁴² *ibid.*

competitors⁴³, and addressing transnational challenges such as climate change, pandemics, cyber threats, and terrorism.⁴⁴ It departs from previous iterations by navigating hard power with soft power through a strategic emphasis on diplomacy, development, and economic statecraft.⁴⁵

Aside the power vested in the President of the US, the institutional framework responsible for the formulation and implementation of the NSS is the National Security Council (NSC). The NSC as a body was established in 1947 by the National Security Act to advise the President and integrate inputs from the Department of Defense, Department of State, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Department of Homeland Security, and other security-related agencies.⁴⁶ Hence, the NSC plays a critical role in fostering interagency cooperation and ensuring coherence across foreign, defence, and domestic security policies.

Moreover, another unique strategy is peculiar to the United States' NSS, as it operates through a stratified institutional structure that enables a rapid and multidimensional response to both the domestic or global threats. For instance, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), created in the aftermath of the attacks of the 11th of November 2001, has played a pivotal role in safeguarding the homeland from terrorism, natural disasters, and cyber threats. Secondly, there are integrating efforts from agencies, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), US Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).⁴⁷ In this vein, an essential feature of the US strategy is its whole-of-government approach that does leverage military and intelligence capabilities and encapsulates health, environmental, technological, and economic domains into national security strategy.⁴⁸ For illustration, the US's strategy

⁴³ Namely, China and Russia.

⁴⁴ White House, National Security Strategy of the United States of America (Washington DC: White House, 2022) <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Biden-Harris-Administrations-National-Security-Strategy-10.2022.pdf> accessed 22 April 2025.

⁴⁵ *ibid.*

⁴⁶ U.S. Congress, National Security Act of 1947, Pub. L. No. 80-253, 61 Stat. 495 (26 July 1947).

⁴⁷ Department of Homeland Security, Strategic Framework for Countering Terrorism and Targeted Violence (Washington DC: DHS, 2019) <https://www.dhs.gov/publication/strategic-framework-countering-terrorism-and-targeted-violence> accessed 22 April 2025.

⁴⁸ Office of the Director of National Intelligence, Annual Threat Assessment of the U.S. Intelligence Community 2023 (Washington DC: ODNI, 2023)

recognizes climate change as a threat multiplier and calls for the incorporation of climate resilience into defence and infrastructure strategic planning.⁴⁹

Furthermore, the US steadily maintains a global force posture with a standby military installation in strategic regions, which is often supported by a robust alliance system, including NATO, the Quad, and AUKUS. These alliances enhance deterrence and project power, while also facilitating intelligence sharing, joint training, and technological innovation.⁵⁰

In all, the United States' national security strategy showcases an evolving, multidimensional framework for national security. The security strategy is one that encompasses traditional defence imperatives with emerging non-traditional threats. It is pertinent for this paper to note that the periodic review and public release of the NSS in the US ensure strategic transparency, democratic oversight, and adaptability to a rapidly changing global environment.

Saudi Arabia

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia adopts a centralized and proactive security strategy, heavily reliant on intelligence and technology. The General Intelligence Presidency (Al-Mabahith) shoulders the responsibility for internal security and counter-terrorism operations in the Kingdom.⁵¹ In this vein, surveillance technologies, including but not limited to AI-driven facial recognition, biometric data, and electronic border monitoring, are being utilized by the Kingdom to obviate threats before they become materialized.⁵² For illustration, Saudi

<https://www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/assessments/ATA-2023-Unclassified-Report.pdf> accessed 22 April 2025.

⁴⁹ibid.

⁵⁰ Nye, J.S., *Do Morals Matter? Presidents and Foreign Policy from FDR to Trump* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020).

⁵¹ Al-Rasheed M, 'The Kingdom and the Glory: Saudi Arabia's Approach to Internal Security' (2020) 42 Middle East Journal 6.

⁵² Al-Harbi K, 'Digital Surveillance and Security Infrastructure in Saudi Arabia' (2021) 28(2) Middle East Policy 123-135 <https://doi.org/10.1111/mepo.12500>.

Arabia established the National Cybersecurity Authority in 2017 to safeguard critical infrastructure and coordinate national cyber policy.⁵³

Furthermore, one of the key strengths of Saudi Arabia's security model is that it aligns its intelligence gathering with rapid deployment, thereby forming a sophisticated synergy for security advancement within the Kingdom. No doubt, the preventive nature of the Kingdom's counterterrorism strategy has led to the dismantling of several terrorist cells, with a strong reliance on data analytics.⁵⁴

South Africa

South Africa's security architecture and strategy is designed and premised around a decentralized policing and community participation. The operations of the South African Police Service (SAPS) are with provincial administrations and community policing forums (CPFs).⁵⁵ These forums promote synergy between local communities and the police for the purpose of identifying and addressing security challenges from the grassroots. For emphasis, the 2016 White Paper on Policing highlights community-oriented policing as a centrepiece of democratic policing in South Africa.⁵⁶ In addition, oversight institutions, such as the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID), play a pivotal role in promoting accountability and public trust expected of law enforcement.⁵⁷

⁵³ Al-Harbi K, 'Digital Surveillance and Security Infrastructure in Saudi Arabia' (2021) 28(2) Middle East Policy 123-135 <https://doi.org/10.1111/mepo.12500>.

⁵⁴ Gause F. G, 'Kings for All Seasons: How the Middle East's Monarchies Survived the Arab Spring' Brookings Doha Center (2011) 8 https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/02_arab_spring_gause.pdf accessed 15 May 2025.

⁵⁵ Burger J, 'Strategic Perspectives on Crime and Policing in South Africa' (Institute for Security Studies 2007) 30-35.

⁵⁶ Republic of South Africa, 'White Paper on Policing' (2016) <https://www.gov.za/documents/white-paper-policing-2016-0> accessed 15 May 2025.

⁵⁷ Bruce D, 'A Police Oversight Body without Teeth? IPID's Role in Tackling Police Corruption' (2017) 60 South African Crime Quarterly 21-30 <https://doi.org/10.17159/2413-3108/2017/v0n60a1737>.

9.1 Rationale for Comparative Analysis

Why compare Nigeria's national security strategies with those of the U.S., U.K., Saudi Arabia, and South Africa? The answer lies in the diversity and relevance of these countries' approaches.

- The **United States** exemplifies a high-tech, intelligence-driven model with robust inter-agency coordination and proactive counterterrorism strategies.
- The **United Kingdom** demonstrates how democratic norms and civil liberties can be balanced with security imperatives through coherent policy frameworks like CONTEST.
- **Saudi Arabia**, although autocratic, offers insights into ideological counter-extremism and the role of centralized state control in mitigating threats.
- **South Africa**, like Nigeria, is a post-colonial, multi-ethnic society with a turbulent past. Its focus on democratic policing, socioeconomic reform, and human rights provides useful contrasts and parallels.

By studying these jurisdictions, this paper seeks to uncover adaptable strategies and best practices that Nigeria can integrate into its security architecture.

9.0 LESSONS FOR ENHANCING SECURITY MANAGEMENT IN NIGERIA

1. Proactive, Adaptive, and Integrative model: UK's National Security Strategy is characterized by a proactive, adaptive, and integrative model of governance that connects domestic resilience with global engagement. Thus, underdeveloped countries like Nigeria facing multidimensional security challenges, can adopt and learn from the model to keep valuable insights into the benefits of institutional coherence, foresight planning, and strategic adaptability for excellent security strategies.

2. Intelligence-Driven Security: Nigeria should replicate Saudi Arabia's model by strengthening central intelligence coordination and integrating modern surveillance tools.

Nigeria can emulate Saudi Arabia's investment in digital surveillance and intelligence-led operations. A centralized intelligence system that effectively shares data across agencies on security strategies and operations will address the current gaps in Nigeria's security strategy tagged as a presumed fragmented security framework.

3. Community Policing: South Africa's CPFs provide a viable template for inclusive and accountable policing at the local level. Thus, learning from South African Strategies, Nigeria should be able institutionalise state policing systems and invest in intelligence sharing across agencies. Effective collaboration, rather than duplication of duties, will enhance operational efficiency.

4. Decentralisation: Security should not be exclusive to the federal government. States should be empowered through legal and institutional reforms.

5. Oversight and Accountability: Establishing independent oversight agencies like South Africa's IPID will reduce human rights violations by law enforcement in Nigeria, if taken into cognizance for policy strategy.

6. Periodic review and transparency. US ensure strategic transparency, democratic oversight, adaptability, etc in its security strategies which Nigeria can adopt for enhancing security performance.

10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Considering the lessons from the selected jurisdiction, the following are recommended:

1. Community Policing and Communal Engagement: Empowering local communities through community-based security initiatives can bridge the trust gap between citizens and law enforcement. By training local leaders and volunteers in conflict prevention and response, communities can play an active role in their own security, fostering a collaborative environment for crime prevention.
2. Decentralizing the Police Force: Establishing state police forces in Nigeria is essential for addressing the country's security challenges vis-à-vis the incessant kidnappings and killings. By decentralizing law enforcement, Nigeria can improve security responsiveness, strengthen community policing, enhance accountability,

and allocate resources more effectively, ultimately leading to safer and more secure communities across the country. For instate, each State should be allowed to develop its police under the leadership of its Governors, who would appoint the Chiefs of Police, individual leaders who are knowledgeable about their culture, customs, language, theology, rules and principles, to serve the communities and their local security concerns.

3. Integrating Artificial Intelligence in Surveillance: Nigeria's insecurity problem has evolved. Bandits use encrypted messaging apps. Kidnappers change locations faster than police can respond. Meanwhile, we rely on reactive, analogue tools to chase after crimes instead of preventing them. Thus, if AI intelligent surveillance adopted, it will definitely align with the South Africa strategy thereby enhancing effective national security in Nigeria.
4. Ensuring Comprehensive Legal Reforms: The government should review and amend existing laws to provide clearer definitions and impose stiffer penalties for kidnapping and related offenses. Special courts can also be established to handle such cases in an expeditious manner. This will ensure swift justice and serve as a deterrent to potential offenders.
5. Judicial/Institutional reform and accountability: The various institutions should be strengthened by way of reform and accountability should be enhanced. Trials should speed up and ensure fair prosecutions, security personnel should be held responsible for abuses.
6. Border security and regional cooperation: There should be tightened boarder control and collaboration with other countries and regional bodies like ECOWAS.
7. Public-Private-Partnership (PPP): Encourage Public-Private-Partnership to leverage resources, expertise and technology in enhancing effective security management in Nigeria. This is similar to the initiatives in South Africa, especially urban safety and crime prevention.
8. Addressing Socio-Economic Root causes: Implement targeted economic development Programs in vulnerable regions, focusing on job creation and education. The issue of poverty, inequality, and unemployment should be addressed as they are contributing factor to insecurity in Nigeria. Drawing lessons from the selected jurisdictions, Job creation increases human security and reduces security risk and criminal behaviours.

11.0 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the pervasive state and nature of the insecurity situation in Nigeria are systemic flaws in the country's security architecture and strategy, ranging from institutional inefficiencies to legal inadequacies. No doubt that Nigeria has put in place various security agencies, policies, and strategies to tackle insecurity; the results have been far from satisfactory. The comparative analysis with jurisdictions such as the United Kingdom, United States, Saudi Arabia, and South Africa reveals that security management requires not just strong institutions but also a strategic coordination, intelligence-led operations, and citizen-centred approaches.

A key takeaway from this paper is the imperative of decentralization and robust legislative oversight for assurance of security accountability and effectiveness. Therefore, Nigeria must urgently embrace reformative lessons from these jealously selected jurisdictions by enhancing institutional capacity, promoting inter-agency cooperation, investing in modern security infrastructure, and reinforcing community trust in security operatives. Thus, to restore the sanctity of lives and property and reclaim the people's confidence in the state, a paradigm shift in national security strategy is essential. Nigeria must move from a reactive approach to a proactive approach, from centralized to coordinated, from coercive to intelligence-based security governance, and from primitive to AI based surveillance for assurance of security of life and property as enshrined in Section 14 (2)(b) of the Constitution.